# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PANCHAYATI RAJ
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4732
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2017
Internet Connectivity in Panchayats
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**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government for the effective e-governance at panchayat level particularly through e-Panchayat Mission Mode project;

(b) whether the Government has taken cognizance of poor IT infrastructure and internet connectivity in Panchayats and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government has allocated funds to States including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for provision of computers in each panchayat during the last three years and the current year and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government has proposed any framework for providing effective use of technology at panchayat level, including targeted training modules for rural citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, region-wise including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing e-Panchayat, a Mission Mode Project that seeks to completely transform the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions, making them more transparent, accountable and effective as last mile cutting edge units of decentralized local self-governments. Under e-Panchayat, a suite of Core Common Software Applications has been developed to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licences etc. Together these applications constitute the Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES).

(b) Lack of internet connectivity and IT infrastructure continue to pose hindrances in the proper implementation of e-Governance activities at Gram Panchayat (GP) level. Due to differentials in the level of preparedness for e-enablement at the Panchayat level, the pace of adoption of e-Governance has varied across and within the States/UTs. To support GPs in overcoming these bottlenecks, the GPs have been permitted to use upto 10% of the Basic Grant funds available with them under Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) for purchase of computers, internet connectivity, data entry etc. as per the guidelines of FFC. Furthermore, the BharatNet project is also being implemented by the Department of Telecommunications for connecting all the GPs in the country through Optical Fiber Cable and providing high speed broadband at Panchayat level.

(c) Under the erstwhile Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan/ new Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (Capacity Building-Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan), MoPR provided financial assistance to States/UTs for e-enablement including computers and peripherals. However, w.e.f 2015-16 no funds for purchase of computers have been provided under e-enablement. The State/UT-wise details of funds sanctioned by the MoPR for this during the last three years and current year are given at Annexure.

(d) & (e) User Manuals, Brochures, Frequently Asked Questions and MÂ¬Â¬Â¬Â¬Â¬Â¬Â¬ulti-media enabled Computer Based Tutorials have been developed for all PES Applications to demonstrate the use of each feature of these applications to the user. Furthermore, MoPR also provides trainings to State-level Master Trainers on PES applications. Besides, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is implementing various schemes that provide digital education and literacy to the masses in the country, including the rural citizens.

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